

**All members of the town are warmly invited to attend**

# **THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**

TO BE HELD ON  
TUESDAY 20 April 2021 at 7.30pm  
THIS IS A VIRTUAL/REMOTE MEETING (HELD VIA ZOOM)  
(the Zoom waiting room will be attended from 7.20pm)

Join Zoom Meeting  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85366346004?pwd=dHhCKzRxUHYZU1prRHpRNmFYy3ZDZz09>

Meeting ID: 853 6634 6004  
Passcode: 245169

The Annual Town Meeting is NOT a Town Council meeting, but an occasion for members of the public to ask questions, make comments, raise issues with the Town Council and propose resolutions.

Following the death of HRH The Duke of Edinburgh on 9<sup>th</sup> April 2021, as a mark of respect, a one minute's silence will be observed prior to the commencement of the Annual Town Meeting.

## **A G E N D A**

- 1. Welcome, and to Receive Apologies for Absence**
- 2. To Approve and Sign the Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting of 16 April 2019**
- 3. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting of 16 April 2019**
- 4. Address by Hingham Town Council Chairman including:**
  - 4.1 To receive a summary report from the Chairman on the work of the Town Council during the past year and its plans for the future.**
  - 4.2 Draft accounts for the financial year 2020/21**
- 5. Open Forum to Discuss Matters Raised by the General Public**  
(Ideally notice of any resolutions should be sent to the clerk prior to the meeting)
- 6. To Receive Reports from Hingham Clubs, Societies, Charities and Organizations etc. (approximately 5mins each)**
- 7. To receive Annual Reports from County and District Councillors**
  - 7.1 District Councillor Yvonne Bendle**
  - 7.2 County Councillor Margaret Dewsbury**
- 8. To Discuss Any Other Business**

*Peter Eldridge*

Chairman – Hingham Town Council  
13<sup>th</sup> April 2021

## **REPORTS**

**HINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL – CHAIRMAN’S REPORT – and Hingham Town Council DRAFT ACCOUNTS**

**SOUTH NORFOLK COMMUNITY CONNECTOR**

**HINGHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**HINGHAM & DISTRICT COMMUNITY CAR SCHEME**

**HINGHAM EMERGENCY PACKAGES**

**LINCOLN SOCIAL CENTRE**

**MILL FARM ALLOTMENTS**

**THE HINGHAM SOCIETY**

**HINGHAM W.I**

**HINGHAM AND HARDINGHAM ART GROUP**

**ST ANDREWS HERITAGE FUND**

**ST ANDREWS CHURCH**

**HINGHAM COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH**

**HINGHAM ROAD SAFETY CAMPAIGN**

**HINGHAM PLAYING FIELDS ASSOCIATION**

**COUNTY COUNCILLOR MARGARET DEWSBURY**

## Hingham Town Council - Chairman's Report 2020/21

The past year has been different from anything that those of us living today have ever seen. In many ways, we as a Community, have come together to support others around us.

Normally, at the Annual Town Meeting, I would be awarding the Chairman's Award for Services to the Community, but this year there are so many people and organisations that I would need to recognise, therefore I hope that I can express my sincerest thanks to all the shops that stayed open and feed us in these difficult times, Hingham Helpers, Hingham Emergency Packages, Dereham Foodbank, the Posties, the refuse collectors, milk delivery, paperboys and girls, organisers of the Hingham Parish Magazine. Thanks also goes to the Community Car Scheme who have been busy taking people for their jabs; the churches, the doctors and the school, the fire service for providing the NHS with extra drivers and both the District and County Councils. If I have missed your organisation, please accept my apologies and my thanks. Whilst offering thanks I can't forget Ali and David, the Council's employees, and of course my fellow Town Councillors (past and present) and the District and County Councillors.

The Town Council has continued to operate; if not in it's normal way but by Zoom and email. Some Councillors decided it was the right time to leave the role and we have welcomed some new faces onto the Council.

With the ever-increasing cost of a whole range of goods and services, the Council gave careful consideration to their 2021/22 budget and took the decision not to increase the Council Tax parish precept requirement.

There have been several issues that have been exercising our concerns but the main one recently has been the Greater Norwich Local Plan and the effect it may have on Hingham. We initially put together a response to the various areas of land put forward for development, in particular the GNLP preferred options. Norwich Road (area next to the Hops), which the Council and many individuals felt was the wrong site to develop. We had concerned about the feasibility of highway requirements in order to develop some land offered on the Dereham Road. The 2 sites were however carried forward for development on to the next stage of the GNLP process (with the intention of including them in the adopted Greater Norwich Local Plan). The Council once again wrote to the GNLP team, putting forward a case for rejecting these sites, and for infrastructure improvements for Hingham to help support future development. The next stage is for the GNLP to be assessed by the Planning Inspectorate. (The landowner has requested the Dereham Road site be withdrawn from the GNLP).

We are waiting for the Highways department to report on the feasibility of improvements to the Fairland Junction and a possible pedestrian crossing in the Market Place. If it proves that these improvements are feasible the Town Council will be campaigning to the County Council for a commitment for some work to be undertaken.

The Town Council are investigating the possibility of undertaking a Neighbourhood Plan. This would take some time to produce, but may enable the community to have a stronger voice regarding where future development takes place.

We are looking forward to a time where there are fewer Covid restrictions and therefore the Council can hold meetings again in person and get the Climate Emergency and Environmental Working Party up and running and undertaking suitable projects. We may also from time to time look for volunteers to help with various projects, and welcome residents' attendance at Town Council meetings. We look forward to hearing that the various Clubs and Organisations in and around Hingham are able to meet again (and find new members and volunteers), as they all help to make Hingham a lovely community to live in.

Pete Eldridge - Chairman, Hingham Town Council

# HINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL DRAFT ACCOUNTS - FINANCIAL YEAR 2020/2021

Hingham Town Council DRAFT Accounts Year End 31 March 2021					
		<b>RECEIPTS</b>			
		2019/20		2020/21	
		£67,000.00	PRECEPT	£77,000.00	
		£350.36	BANK INTEREST	£61.17	
		£5,212.50	CEMETERY FEES	£3,991.00	
	(late )PAID in 2020/21	£0.00	RECREATION GROUND LETTINGS	£100.00	FOR 2019/20 PAID LATE
		£1,335.40	CIL	£0.00	
		£0.00	EVENTS	£0.00	
	late paid 3746.48 for 2018.19	£7,594.11	NCC GRASS CUTTING PAYMENT	£0.00	payment not yet made for 2020/21
	late paid FOR 2018.19	£3,426.96	SNC TOILET CLEANING PAYMENT	N/A	
		£1,744.70	MISCELLANEOUS	£972.67	
		N/A	COVID GRANT	£10,000.00	
		£37,570.00	SNC TOILET TRANSFER COMMUTED SUM/REFURB	N/A	
		£124,234.03	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£92,124.84</b>	
	for VAT paid 2018.19	£8,136.86	RECLAIMED VAT	£0.00	FOR 2019/20 (has been reclaimed - received on 01 APR 2021)
		£132,370.89	<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>£92,124.84</b>	
<b>PAYMENTS (N.B. NET FIGURE SHOWN FOR GOODS AND SERVICES)</b>					
		2019/20		2020/21	
		£25,300.64	STAFF COSTS	£27,170.78	
		£5,310.30	GENERAL ADMIN (EXCLUDING STAFF)	£4,997.47	
		£675.00	S137	£678.00	
		£1,490.00	GRANTS/DONATIONS (OTHER THAN S137 & EVENTS)	£0.00	
		£9,466.48	STREET LIGHTING	£15,025.42	
		£9,891.00	GRASS CUTTING	£10,088.80	
		£445.97	TREES	£1,665.00	
		£229.00	CEMETERY	£49.13	
		£2,066.92	TOILETS (NOT STAFF)	£2,165.19	
		£554.83	EVENTS	£82.82	
		£0.00	NCC PARISH PARTNERSHIP PROJECTS	£5,000.00	
	INC. CHRISTMAS TREE, DOG BIN EMPTYING, HOLIDAY COVER LITTER BINS, FAIRLAND STANDPIPE, MISC EQUIPMENT AND MAINTENANCE	£1,043.57	MISCELLANEOUS	£1,421.16	INC. CHRISTMAS TREE, DOG BIN EMPTYING, HOLIDAY COVER LITTER BINS, FAIRLAND STANDPIPE, CHURCH WALL REPAIR, MISC EQUIPMENT AND MAINTENANCE
		£26,815.00	CIL (other than Parish Partnership)	£0.00	
		£83,288.71	<b>NET TOTAL</b>	<b>£68,343.77</b>	
		£9,364.27	VAT	£5,471.59	
		£92,652.98	<b>TOTAL INC. VAT</b>	<b>£73,815.36</b>	
<b>Balance per bank statements 31 March 2021</b>					
				£56,391.38	
				£127,980.12	
				£38,810.09	
	dormant account		Business reserve account (last statement available 28/03/12 called CAPIT	£186.80	
			<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£223,368.39</b>	
			LESS Amount from Unpresented Cheques	£240.00	
			ADD any unbanked cash	£0.00	
			<b>Net bank balances as at 31/03/2021 reconciled with the cash book</b>	<b>£223,128.39</b>	
			<b>The net balances reconcile to the Cash Book for the 12 MONTHS - 01 April 2020-31 MARCH 2021</b>		
			<b>CASH BOOK</b>		
	Opening Balance (as per bank reconciliation 31 March 2020)			£204,818.91	
	Add Receipts 01 April 20 -31 MARCH 2021			£92,124.84	
	Less: Payments 01 April 20 -31 MARCH 2021			£73,815.36	
	<b>Closing balance per cash book as at 31 MARCH 2021</b>			<b>£223,128.39</b>	
<b>OF THE BALANCE THE FOLLOWING IS DESIGNATED OR RESTRICTED FUNDS</b>					
	CIL	£21,913.44			
	BUS SHELTER PLAQUE	£300.00			
	CAR PARK DRAIN REPAIRS (FROM CHURCH)	£100.00	UNABLE TO UNDERTAKE AS NOT OWNERS OF LAND		
	TOILET REFURB/COMMUTED	£31,210.47			
	EVENTS	£2,728.58			
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£56,252.49</b>			
<b>IN ADDITION TO THIS THE TOWN COUNCIL HAS A RESERVES POLICY WHICH ALLOCATES ANY REMAINING RESERVES TO A SPECIFIC PURPOSE (FIGURES ADJUSTED ANNUALLY), INCLUDING A RESERVE FIGURE OF 1 QUARTER OF THE PRECEPT - TO ENSURE THE COUNCIL COULD CONTINUE TO OPERATE IN THE SHORT TERM IF THE PRECEPT IS NOT RECEIVED</b>					

## COMMUNITY CONNECTOR REPORT – APRIL 2021

This year, like everyone else, the Early Help Hub and Community Connectors have reacted to an extraordinary situation, a global pandemic, that none of us could have predicted.

During the first lockdown the Early Help Hub was getting hundreds of calls a day and there has always been someone at the end of the phone making sure no call went unanswered and vulnerable residents received the food and medicine they needed.

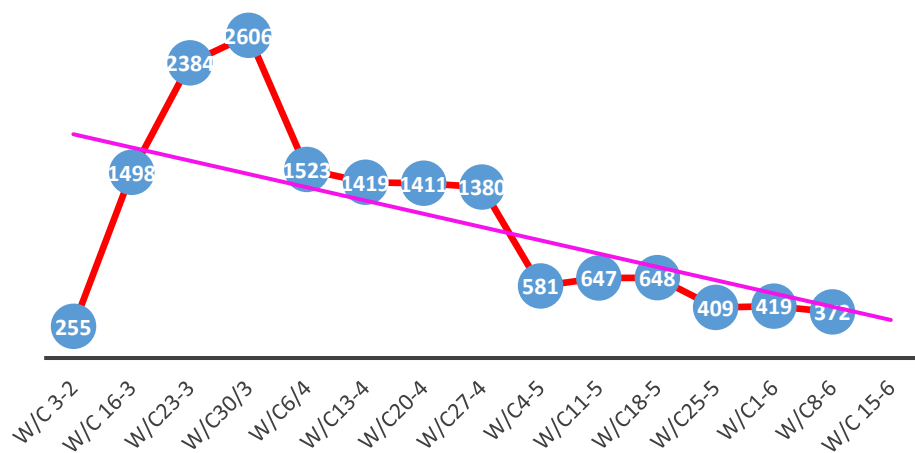
As your Community Connector I have continued to deliver social prescribing within the GP surgery and the Hingham community. I have supported those who were shielding or self-isolating as well as those who have been impacted by the pandemic in other ways; whether this has been to support residents to access their community by connecting them to social networks, helping them improve their wellbeing, accessing grant funding, combatting loneliness, carers support and more:

“Thank you. I felt in a terrible muddle before I spoke to you. You listened to me, made me laugh, which I haven’t felt like doing for ages, and made me feel like I can cope”.

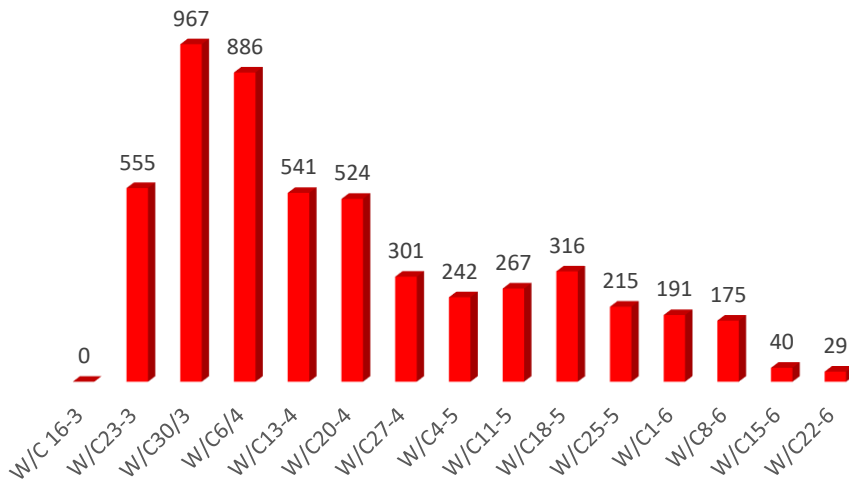
One of the most positive outcomes arising from the pandemic is the emergence of local MAG (mutual aid) groups and their tireless volunteers and I look forward to the challenges of the coming year in the knowledge that the community itself has proved incredibly resilient.

For more information or support please contact Barbara Howard, Community Connector [bhoward@s-norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:bhoward@s-norfolk.gov.uk) 07890599514

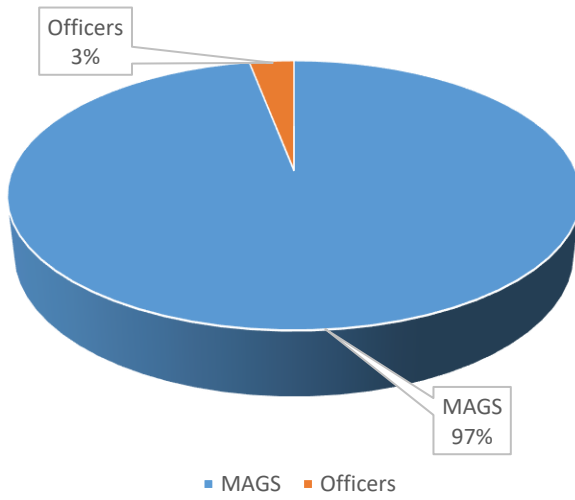
Covid Related Calls to the Hub: First Wave



Community Deployments by Week--Covid Related: First Wave



Community Deployments Second Wave-Jan to March 2021.



## Hingham Primary School April 2021

It has been a very different year in school, but despite everything a very positive year.

This time last year we, along with all the schools in the country, were instructed to close. I don't think for one moment we thought that we would still be closed into the summer term, but we were. During this time we were open for vulnerable children and children with key worker parents (e.g. NHS workers, teachers, police officers, care workers etc).

During this time our building work began. The old dilapidated mobile classrooms were removed and the ground work began to install a 3 classroom modular block.

In September our new building was handed over to us with only 2 days to prepare for the new term. Whilst the initial stages were somewhat challenging to be able to get everything organised, we were able to open on time on the 7<sup>th</sup> September to a full school. The pleasure and delight of having everyone back outweighed the challenges of creating a Covid-safe school.



The building has made such a difference to the way we are able to run school and gives us so much more useable space. The new block is purpose-built for EYFS and KS1 and has access from every classroom to an outside area.

The older part of the building houses KS2 and we made the sure that they too had a refresh with some new loos, new double glazed windows and every classroom being painted.

September to December worked brilliantly with children engaging well in learning and getting back into routine. The children were amazing.

With January 2021 came lockdown and school closures again. This time we were well prepared and were able to roll out online live lessons by the first official day of closure. Over 700 live lessons, breakout rooms and many Parent-mails later, we returned to school in person on the 8<sup>th</sup> March. The feedback from families during this time was really positive and most children engaged daily.

Whilst we are still organised in class bubbles that don't mix, we are delighted to be back in the building and teaching face-to-face, hearing the sounds of children learning and playing together – back to how a school should be.

**Vickie Newrick Headteacher**

# HINGHAM & DISTRICT COMMUNITY CAR SCHEME

## REPORT TO HINGHAM TOWN MEETING - FOR 2019/20 AND 2020/21

The Scheme covers Hingham, Deopham and Hackford offering transport for medical journeys to Hospitals, Surgeries, Dentists, Chiropodists, Osteopaths and chemists. Journeys are charged at 50 pence per notional mile with clients paying half, whilst the rest is covered by funds from Hingham Council, South Norfolk District Council and Norfolk County Council.

Our drivers are volunteers, who use their own vehicles and offer their time free. They receive half the cost of the journey from the client at the time of the journey and receive the second half monthly by direct payment to their bank account. These payments are drawn up by the scheme administrator from the booking diary, authorised by the scheme co-ordinator and paid by the finance officer by internet banking.

### April 2019/ March 2020

There were 1,167 journeys carried out during the year at a cost of £3,200.50 to the Councils – 50% of the total cost of running the scheme. This is about normal for the scheme, the only difference is that we now count each return journey as 2 journeys, to come into line with other schemes funded by SNDC.

During this year we had four main drivers and two who took on journeys when there was particularly high demand.

### April 2020/ March 2021

There were 796 journeys carried out during the year at a cost of £2,657.75 to the Councils – a significant reduction reflecting the impact of Covid-19. It is a matter of considerable pride that our drivers continued to offer their support throughout the various lock-downs – we believe that we are one of the few local schemes that did this.

During the year the main drivers continued to offer their support, but towards December when the first tier started the national vaccination process we realised that we may need more drivers to meet the likely demand. Advertising on the Hingham Facebook Page resulted in six new volunteers of whom three are able to take on journeys regularly. Indeed the first three months of 2021 accounted for almost half of the total journeys in the year.

In May our administrator, Kalea unfortunately had to resign and the Co-ordinator took on the role while we advertised for a replacement. At the end of September we were very fortunate to take on Carol as our Administrator who picked up the reins quickly and provides excellent support to both our drivers and clients. During the difficult days of Covid-19 she has particularly helped our most isolated and vulnerable in the community, maintaining regular telephone contact with them and undertaking regular acts of kindness when needed, such as shopping or picking up prescriptions. She is always ready to go the extra mile to help our clients.

The Scheme is currently in a good position to maintain its service and continues to provide support within the communities of Hingham, Deopham and Hackford.

**Alison Lys, Scheme Co-ordinator**



### **Hingham Emergency Packages Report for Hingham Town Meeting April 2021**

Hingham Emergency packages was set up at the start of the pandemic as a response to the economic impact on families and individuals through loss of work and associated financial hardship.

A core group comprised of representatives from the church, the school, the White Hart and local volunteers, have provided over 300 food parcels to households in need. Our scheme has been funded entirely by donations from local people and businesses, to which we are extremely grateful. Our families have asked that we pass on their gratitude for this support, without which access to essential food basics could have been compromised.

We are also very grateful to Michael at Mid Norfolk Food Bank in Dereham, who has been a huge source of support.

The scheme will come to a close this June, with left over funds being held for a period of time in case we are needed again, after which the committee will distribute any leftover funding to a similar cause(s) with similar objectives.

The committee wishes the very best to all in the recovery from this most extraordinarily challenging year and hope for brighter times to come.

With very best wishes and thanks.

Dawny Christien - acting Chair, Hingham Emergency Package

### **Lincoln Social Centre**

During lockdown we have been doing some major improvements to the hall with regards the stage area this has now been cleared painted and new curtains put up, we are hoping by doing this work we can encourage the stage to be more used so anyone wishing to set up a drama group or music nights we would love to hear from.

The rest of hall curtains are to be replaced in coming months.

WiFi has been installed and we hope this will also make the Hall more appealing and will encourage use by a greater number of hirers.

The Committee have accessed covid grants to support the charity while our income has dropped and will consider accessing further grants in future. Many 2020 bookings have been carried over to this year.

The committee hopes the community have enjoyed the gourmet burger, Thai street food and Easter Trail stalls.

As from May 17th all being well the hall will have back some or the regular groups for wellbeing and fitness so we look forward to seeing people soon.

Report from Hingham Charity

## **HINGHAM CHARITY**

### **Mill Farm Allotments**

Due to lockdown it has been a good year for Mill Farm allotments (although nothing should be good for having a lockdown) but it has enabled people to get out into allotments and the fresh air and socialise albeit social distancing.

To date all allotments have been let for the first time in years long may it continue.

Looking forward to being able to have social gatherings at Mill Farm allotments in the future and making new allotment friends.

Daphne Hughes  
Clerk  
HINGHAM CHARITY

## **HINGHAM SOCIETY**

### **Report to the Annual Parish Meeting 2021**

Like most other organisations in Hingham, the activities of the Hingham Society have been in abeyance during the last year, due to the pandemic.

However the committee intend to meet soon and hope to plan a limited programme for the rest of the year, if circumstances permit. Details will be found in the Community Magazine.

As you will know from the magazine, our Chairman, Tom Cowin has resigned for family reasons and Sally Davis, another long-standing committee member has also stood down. We would like to thank them for their work over the past years.

These events had left us two committee members short, but we are pleased to welcome Ann Margand as a new member. We would very much like to recruit at least one other person to join us, bringing new ideas to forward our aims which are

”to improve, protect and .preserve the parish of Hingham”

We are lucky enough to live in a beautiful and historic town surrounded by countryside and we feel that it is the obligation of us all to pass on this legacy to future generations in good order. To help us to fulfil our aims, the committee hope you will continue to give us your support.

## Hingham WI

Sadly we have not been able to hold our regular meetings since last March and at present we do not know when we will be able meet again.

We have kept in touch with our members with monthly newsletters and special packages at Christmas and Easter.

It would be wonderful if we could meet up to celebrate our 102nd Birthday in July but that may not be possible.

## Hingham and Hardingham Art Group: Report April 2021

The Art Group has continued to function through the Covid lockdowns by setting fortnightly 'home works' on a theme; photos of these have been submitted on line to the Chair and then circulated by email or letter to members and published on our Facebook site (Hingham and Hardingham Art Group) - many of the Group with suitable technology have participated and we had over 130 views again last week!

Sadly we were unable to hold an exhibition in 2020 however we continue to have paintings on display and for sale in the doctors' surgery and in Hassingham House in Hingham.

The Group has been invited to have an exhibition space in Harrods of Hingham's Community Gallery which we are very pleased to support; there will be a new display of members' work (all for sale) when the Gallery is able to open again.

No concrete plans for regular meetings, a trip, workshops or our exhibition have yet been made; we are waiting until there is more clarity about future restrictions. However as the weather warms and restrictions relax, we plan to start meeting in private gardens again as we did last summer to paint companionably "plein air", each self-sufficient with painting gear and refreshments. We also hope to use the studio space at Harrods once a week, again as we did last autumn.

There are now more than 30 members in the Art Group, including a few who joined after lockdown and whom we look forward to meeting in person! Also one of our members will be starting a fine art degree course at Norwich University of the Arts this autumn. We are all looking forward to returning to Hardingham Village Hall; we have an AGM to hold and we did not have our usual lunch gathering last year, we have a lot of catching up to do.

Hilary Hodges Chair Person

## **HERITAGE FUND - St. Andrew's Hingham**

Owing to Covid restrictions, Heritage Fund had no events in 2020. Sadly, the 700 years celebrations for the building of St. Andrew's Church planned for 2020 was unable to go ahead; and once again this year it looks as though we will not be having our cake stall on the Green from April to September; though we hope it may be possible to have a cake stall in August and September this year.

However, from existing funds Heritage has covered the cost of the replacement of the high level South side nave guttering and repainting the low level guttering on the same side; also remedial repairs to alleviate water ingress over the North side aisle door.

We are also looking for more Committee members, as 4 of our long serving members have retired in the last year.

On a "lighter note" - can anyone please help with heavy-duty transport to Great Ellingham from the church, as we have around 1 ton of cast iron guttering to take to Mellors!

Heritage Fund ( Nicola Trett Secretary)

## **St Andrew's Church Hingham**

This has been an interesting year when we have learnt and adapted in lots of ways to be able to continue with as much of our work as possible.

We have been able to keep the church open for private prayer for the majority of the time in covid secure conditions. Our services, Lent course, study groups and evening prayer have been on-line using Zoom, youtube, facebook etc., and we have also been able to have combined services with some people present and socially distanced in church with others joining and participating via zoom.

Weddings and funerals also have been able to be done this way, enabling family and friends to join in the service. For those unable to access the internet we have kept in telephone contact or socially distanced visits, and have produced CDs of songs, readings and meditations delivered to their homes. We are fortunate in having a number of excellent musicians who have given us some uplifting and joyful experiences of worship while we are unable to sing as a congregation.

We are now looking forward to planning post pandemic activities.

### **Hingham - Community Speedwatch (CSW) – Update April 2021 Community Speedwatch**

Operations have like many activities in the community been severely constrained across the last year as a result of the Covid related restrictions, social distancing measures, lock-downs and tiering constraints. We have, when possible, been out and about and also actively supported the Hingham Road Safety Campaign throughout the summer of last year. With the raising of Covid restrictions, we are now getting prepared for our 2021 roadside sessions and signs have been cleaned up, paperwork sorted and radar guns recharged ready for the off. We will be out and about in Hingham again from the end of April onwards.

Watch your speed we do not want to record you or your families' misdemeanours!

There are currently only 6 members of the Hingham CSW and that makes it hard to organise many roadside sessions each month. WE ARE ACTIVELY RECRUITING FOR NEW VOLUNTEERS TO JOIN WITH US. This only means undertaking some brief initial training and familiarity with the equipment inc. the radar gun. Thereafter, we need 3 volunteers at each roadside session and the larger the pool of volunteers the more sessions we can achieve. If you were to join us then it is likely that at most you would attend 1 roadside session a week which is usually for just 1 hour. If you would like to discuss joining with us then please call Barry on 01953 797124 or e-mail [barry.glynn@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:barry.glynn@yahoo.co.uk) Barry Glynn

Respect your environment and local residents – drive safely, and within the speed limits.

## **Report of the Hingham Road Safety Campaign (HRSC) to the April 2021 Hingham Town Meeting**

Late last year we reported our two year campaign findings in the Community Newsletter and to the Town Council requesting, as residents asked, we collaborate to pursue matters with the County Council. A short reminder of what we recommend is included at the foot of this paper. Since then two vital events, a further Covid-19 lockdown and the Greater Norwich Local Planning (GNLP) final consultation phase on their housing proposals for Hingham have interceded, making round table discussions impossible while these were dealt with. We now look forward to meeting with Councillors in the next few weeks. The continued preference of GNLP planners for the Norwich Road development was not known when we reported and was therefore not covered by it.

We consider the B1108 Norwich Road is already unfit for purpose, let alone for an extra 80+ proposed houses, and used the consultation to produce a paper explaining our reasons. (Essentially it would lock in the present failings for ever.) We concurred with the Town Council's own objections and preferences and were able to agree our approach at the 'Zoomed' TC meeting in February. We hope that our additional arguments focusing on the speeding and other B1108 road issues will finally persuade the planners that this proposed development is "unsound".

Geoff Bedford

Campaign Team Lead

### **A brief summary of our report recommendations:**

Our small team set out to try and draw to a conclusion the long 30+ year, largely unsuccessful, struggle to secure improvements to road safety in Hingham. Speeding is at the core of this, compounded by difficulties in walking around the town where there are no pedestrian rights of way to cross a road that literally bi-sects our town and its amenities.

Lack of any major infrastructure investment in roads also sees footpaths that are frequently poor and unsafe - long before social distancing became an issue.

Reducing speed by 'natural' calming traffic at the town entrances and at regular intervals throughout the town is the core proposal. Providing a small number of pedestrian controlled crossings at the busier points is also key.

Improvements to footpaths will be the most challenging - but is possible, again with a determination to remedy the neglect in investment that accompanied much of the development of the Town over the years. We have recommended for discussion, refinement and development, how most of these improvements can be achieved. Obviously they need proper capital investment and this is why it will take all our combined persuasive powers to put our town in the frame for some remedies and better spending parity.

A copy of the full report is available to borrow (phone 851823) and can be viewed on <http://tiny.cc/HRSC-Report>

# **HINGHAM PLAYING FIELDS ASSOCIATION**

Registered Charity No: 286060

## **Report to Hingham Town Meeting 2020/21**

The HPFA owns the Welcomme Playspace in Hardingham Street and the buildings and facilities offered at the Sports Hall and Playing Fields on the land at Watton Road, leased from the Town Council. It hosts a number of sports clubs including football, cricket, tennis, short mat bowls, badminton, all of which run as independent clubs, paying HPFA for the use of the facilities. The hall is also available for hire for private events and parties, and by individuals to hire for private use of the indoor courts. The Sports Hall includes a Sports & Social Club which operates separately under its own license.

The HPFA continued its efforts to update and upgrade its facilities, completing the electrical works in line with the full Electrical Report commissioned in early 2019. We have also completely renovated the ladies and gents toilets. We are now looking towards refurbishment of the windows and doors, which will require applying for grant funding.

With the onset of Covid-19 in early 2020, our sports clubs were all shut down. We implemented all required 'covid-safe' processes for access to the hall, including risk assessments, the NHS Test and Trace barcode, and sanitisers. This allowed family groups and 'bubbles' who were able to play outdoor tennis for example could access toilets etc.

At Christmas we were able to help the Rector host a small Carol Service in front of the hall, with everyone socially distanced on chairs. Over thirty people attended and it was a lovely event.

Each Club is following its national body's regulations for returning and we are asking them to submit a risk assessment if they need to access the hall. The Social Club has just started offering drinks outdoors on a limited number of days. The Cricket Club has held its first match.

On the financial front, we were able to benefit from SNDC's business support grants, and have therefore been able to keep solvent through these difficult months. We are grateful to them for their speedy and efficient release of these grants.

We have held three or four meetings during the period, either by zoom or a combination of a small group in the social club and zoom. We were very glad to 'see' Daisy and Yvonne at our last meeting in March. We are all looking forward to returning to full operation.!!

Alison Lys

## **Norfolk County Council Annual Report 2021**

Last year I wrote my annual report in April and finished it by saying 'dealing with the Coronavirus has completely disrupted the council's work and budget plans. We have responded to current needs and, like everyone else, we have no idea how long this will continue or when we will be able to get back on track.' I don't think any of us imagined that we would not be emerging from this for a full year.

We will be balancing the budget this year because the Government has assisted with the financial demands of the pandemic but it has been a very different and difficult year.

For the last year staff have been working from home and many who had face to face roles, which had to cease, have been helping our other services, or the NHS with whatever needed to be done to help local people and businesses. They have delivered medicines and groceries, helped with testing and vaccinations and answered phone calls for assistance.

The Fire Service has driven ambulances, taught others to drive ambulances and set up and run a new mortuary when there were not sufficient to cope.

Museums, libraries, Records Office were closed but they set up and ran virtual visits, activities, etc to assist with the wellbeing of children and adults sitting at home.

Adult Learning put their courses on line and developed many new ones, to help people who had lost their jobs develop new skills and acquire qualifications as well as provide activities to support peoples' mental health and wellbeing.

The council funded and distributed 5,000 laptops and tablets for children who needed them to do school work at home and art packs were also supplied to keep them occupied and interested. Libraries set up a phone line to support families who were struggling with home learning and how to use the new digital devices.

Customer Services has assisted with the test and tracing to warn people who have unknowingly been in contact with people with COVID and we believe this service will need to continue for at least another year. The council's usual work continued maintaining roads, supporting vulnerable adults and children and responding to emergencies such as the flooding during the winter.

The Norfolk Strategic Flooding Alliance has been set up to identify the causes of some of the flooding and help rectify them.

Libraries are about to open again. Recently they have assisted people to complete the Census on line and will be stocking the lateral flow tests in libraries and on mobile libraries when they start coming round again.

A new grant scheme called 'Go Digital' was launched in December to enable micro, small and medium sized businesses to make better use of digital technology by providing funding and one to one support and advice to help support the local economy.

Work has begun on two new recycling centres one to the north and one to the south of Norwich and some major road schemes are about to start in Gt Yarmouth, Downham Market and Stalham. The Long Stratton bypass has also been agreed.

The Member's Highways grant of £6,000 will be increased by £4,000 this year and extended to include environmental projects. The council has also agreed to plant one million trees over the next five years to reduce our environmental impact and meet our target of zero carbon by 2030. Parishes are asked to help identify areas where trees are required.



This is just a brief overview of some of the work of the council. I am always around to answer questions or help with any problems that arise and I endeavour to attend all Parish Council meetings but occasionally I have two or more meetings on one evening and cannot attend everything. The Parish clerks know they can contact me anytime and I am happy to help.

Margaret  
County Councillor